



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

mat; and the SPARSAE, in which there is a shorter or longer underground root-stock (which he calls the "earth-branch"). In the first group, new plants arise from buds on this matted crown; the plants, therefore, all remain in a close cluster. In the other group, the new plants are scattered at some distance from the old plants. The STOREATAE are again subdivided into those in which the roots become very fleshy and usually more or less spindle-shaped toward the end of the season. The contents of these roots are used up by the following year's growth. The other division consists of those with fine fibrous roots. Further subdivisions of these are based upon the fact that the leaves are three-nerved in some, and pinnate-nerved in others. Still further subdivisions are based upon the hairiness. The group SPARSAE is divided into sections in which the underground stems are terminated by tubers (*H. tuberosus* being an example), and those not so enlarged. The latter are again divided into those with petiolate leaves and those with practically sessile leaf-blades. Further subdivisions are based upon the presence or absence of wings upon the petioles, and on the nervation of the leaf-blades.

The author finds that by subdividing the plants in this way, he can distinguish a large number of species which have apparently never been described. It is to be hoped that botanists elsewhere, where the perennial sunflowers are abundant, will try out Mr. Alexander's key as to its workability in other localities.

EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

ERNST A. BESSEY

#### NEWS ITEMS

A hurricane accompanied by rain and snow on the night of November 11, at Lafayette, Ind., did much injury to the botanical department of the Purdue Experiment Station. The windows of the offices and laboratories were blown in, but the herbarium room escaped unharmed. About half of the glass in the conservatories was broken, and as the storm was followed by severe cold, practically all the plants perished. The collection included many species gathered from all parts of the country for culture hosts in the study of rusts.

Dr. D. T. MacDougal, director of the department of Botanical Research of the Carnegie Institution, has gone to Egypt to prosecute studies on the desert vegetation of that region. Dr. W. A. Cannon recently returned from a preliminary survey of the deserts in northeastern Africa, under the auspices of the same institution.

At the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting at Washington, D. C., during Christmas week, Dr. C. E. Bessey, of the University of Nebraska, will act as president.

We quote from the New York *Evening Post* (December 2) the following, in regard to Columbia University:

"A greenhouse and botanical laboratory is now in course of construction in East Field, the half block between Amsterdam and Morningside Avenues, which was recently acquired by the university, and on which the President's house is being erected. The greenhouse stands in the middle of the block, just back of the President's house. It is to be used by professors and advance students in the Department of Botany.

"In the conservatory, which will be twenty-four by eighty feet, plants for use in all botanical work, both graduate and undergraduate, will be grown. Moreover, it will contain a laboratory and a dark room, equipped with all the modern appurtenances. . . . Advanced classes in plant physiology and experimental botany will work in the conservatory, as will the groups in experimental plant pathology."

From the New York *Evening Sun* (December 11) we learn that Sir Joseph Hooker has died. Joseph Dalton Hooker was a retired surgeon of the Royal Navy and late director of the Royal Gardens at Kew. He was born at Halesworth, Suffolk, June 30, 1817. He was educated at the High School and the University of Glasgow. He was surgeon and naturalist on his Majesty's ship *Erebus* in the Antarctic expedition under Sir James Ross in 1839-43. He visited as a naturalist the Himalaya Mountains, Syria and Palestine, Morocco and the Greater Atlas. He was in the Rocky Mountains and California in 1877. Sir Joseph was president of the Royal Society, 1872-77.